of Secondary Education (CBSE), and schools make their own arrangement to provide necessary facilities.

Implementation of free education to single girl child

†1406. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the States in the country where the scheme of providing free education to single girl child has been implemented;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when this scheme would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The CBSE in its circular dated 18.10.2005 addressed to its affiliated schools directed them to grant full waiver of fees (excluding meals and transportation fee) charged by them from class VI onwards to each girl student who is also the single child of her parents. Delhi High Court has issued an interim stay order on implementation of the circular and the matter is presently sub judice.

Decline in science education

1407. SHRI SANTOSH NAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agree with the findings of the report by NCAER on decline in science education in the higher academic levels; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken to improve the situation in this regard;

(c) whether Government have made an appraisal of the existing schemes to promote science at the higher academic levels; if so, the reasons for the shortcomings as indicated in the aforesaid report; and

(d) the steps being taken to credibly improve the situation?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) According to the information contained in the report entitled 'National Science Report' carried out by National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER), the poroportion of the students enrolled in science courses has gone up from 28.8% of the population in 1995-1996 to 34.6% in 2003-2004.

(c) to (d) A Task Force was set up by the Government for strengthening basic science education and research within the existing university system. The recommendations *inter-alia* include to create 1000 positions of research scientists at various levels, five fold increase in the number of Ph.Ds from Indian Universities and provisions of fellowships in basic sciences for pursuing Doctoral research etc. The report has been given to the University Grants Commission (UGC) for further action.

Special school for tribal children

1408. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the functioning of special schools for tribal children on the model of public schools in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to open such special schools for the benefits of tribal children in other Sates also;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) Government is not aware of the functioning of special schools for tribal children on the model of public schools in Rajasthan. Under the scheme of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV), 750 residential schools have been set up upto upper primary level for girls predominantly belonging to SC, ST, OBC and Minorities, so far. Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides grants to various States including Rajasthan for setting up of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) for providing quality education to Scheduled Tribe students from class VI to XII on the lines of Navodaya Vidyalayas. So far, 100 EMRS have been sanctioned. The State-wise break-up of KGBV and EMRS is given in the enclosed statement.